

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 00369 01 OF 02 091230Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 /112 W

----- 032034

O R 091222Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7938

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

SECDEF

CNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MARR, NATO, IC, UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND/UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: PRESS REPORTS

PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH LABOR MP

REF: A) BYRD/WORREL TELECON ON JANUARY 8; B) REYKJAVIK

0026; C) REYKJAVIK 1514

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 00369 01 OF 02 091230Z

1. REUTERS DISPATCH QUOTING PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S

STATEMENT THAT MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE PRODUCTIVE AT PRESENT PROBABLY ORIGINATED IN CORRESPONDENCE WILSON HAD WITH LABOR MP ON FISHERIES DISPUTE. WILSON LETTER TO MP JAMES JOHNSON REPORTED IN BRIEF ARTICLE IN "TIMES" JANUARY 7.

2. FCO OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT "TIMES" ARTICLE DID NOT REFLECT FULL IMPACT OF WILSON'S LETTER WHICH FCO HAD ASSISTED IN PREPARING. WHILE PRIME MINISTER DID WRITE THAT HE FELT MEETING WITH ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT BE "USEFUL" AT THE PRESENT TIME, WILSON HAD REITERATED STANDARD UK LINE, INCLUDING ITS WILLINGNESS TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND UK WILLINGNESS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS "AT ANY TIME, ANYWHERE, AT ANY LEVEL." FCO DID NOT FEEL WILSON'S LETTER TO MP OFFERED ANYTHING BEYOND A RESTATEMENT OF PREVIOUS UK POSITION. FURTHERMORE, FCO WAS NOT AWARE THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH MP OR THAT REUTERS HAD PICKED UP THE STORY FOR PUBLICATION ABROAD.

3. AMERICAN JOURNALIST IN LONDON, WHO HAS BEEN BIRD-DOGGING THE COD WAR OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 8 THAT ICELANDIC EMBASSY IN LONDON HAS CHOSEN TO INTERPRET PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO MP AS NEXT STEP IN CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGE BETWEEN WILSON AND ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON (I.E., "AS AN ANSWER TO HALLGRIMSSON'S PRE-CHRISTMAS LETTER, REFERENCE C). ACCORDING TO NEWSMAN, ICELANDIC EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE FULL TEXT OF MP'S LETTER TO WILSON OR OF HIS REPLY AND IS RELYING ON PRESS REPORTS EXCLUSIVELY. FCO OFFICIAL MADE IT QUITE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HMG HAS NOT RESPONDED TO HALLGRIMSSON LETTER IN ANY WAY AND DOES NOT FEEL ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER CALLED FOR REPLY. (FYI: EMBASSY OFFICER SUGGESTED TO NEWSMAN THAT ICELANDIC EMBASSY IN LONDON MIGHT WELL BE UNJUSTIFIED IN TAKING FOR GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO LABOR MP ONLY PARTS OF WHICH IT HAS SEEN. END FYI)

4. ICELANDIC EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD AMERICAN NEWSMAN THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 00369 01 OF 02 091230Z

ICELANDIC CABINET MEETING JANUARY 7 HAD REACHED TWO DECISIONS ON FUTURE HANDLING OF DISPUTE WHICH MAY HAVE. IN OUR VIEW, BEEN BASED IN PART ON THEIR MISREADING OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 00369 02 OF 02 091231Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FEAE-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 /112 W

----- 032060

O R 091222Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7939

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

SECDEF

CNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 00369

INTENT OF WILSON'S LETTER TO MP. ICELANDIC CABINET DECIDED TO INVITE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS TO COME TO REYKJAVIK NOT IN A PROSPECTIVE ROLE AS MEDIATOR, BUT IN ORDER TO IMPRESS UPON HIM SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ICELAND VIEWS THE DISPUTE IN TERMS OF ITS NATO MEMBERSHIP AND NATO USE OF BASES.

5. SECOND DEAISSION REACHED BY CABINET, ACCORDING NEWSMAN,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 00369 02 OF 02 091231Z

WAS TO POSTPONE SHIFTS PLANNED IN ICELANDIC DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN MOVING ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TO BONN AND AMBASSADOR IN BONN TO LONDON. AT AN EARLIER TIME REYKJAVIK HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE EXCHANGE EVEN THOUGH ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR IN LONDON RECOMMENDED AGAINST IT. THUS, CABINET DECISION POSTPONING THE TRANSFERS REPRESENTS CHANGE OF DECISION AT HIGHEST LEVEL, REFLECTING SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ICELAND VIEWS CURRENT SITUATION.

6. IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO DECISIONS, CABINET APPARENTLY ALSO DECIDED TO BEEF UP ITS EFFORTS IN NATO AND IN UN ACCORDING TO AMERICAN NEWSMAN.

7. BRITISH PPESS JANUARY 9 REPORTS THE LUNS INVITATION SUGGESTING THAT REYKJAVIK IS SEEKING SPECIAL MEETING OF NATO COUNCIL. PRESS ALSO REPORTS 1) SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL PROTESTS ON COLLISION IN ICELANDIC WATERS OF BRITISH FRIGATE WITH ICELANDIC GUNBOAT THOR, AND 2) THAT IAEALAND "THREATENS" BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UK.

8. PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 9 FURTHER THAT ICELAND RECALLING ITS AMBASSADOPS TO US, UN AND CANADA FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THAT ICELAND WILL SEND SENIOR DIPLOMAT TO VISIT ALL NATO CAPITALS IN EUROPE TO PRESENT ICELAND'S CASE AND SEEK SUPPORT AGAINST BRITAIN'S "UNLAWFUL USE OF FORCE."

9. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS ICELAND WITH FOREIGN OFFICE AT NOON TODAY (JANUARY 9), AND WE SHALL REPORT BY TELEPHONE OR IMMEDIATE CABLE ANY FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

RICHARDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FISHING DISPUTES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON00369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-0436
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760172/aaaacvlb.tel
Line Count: 206
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 REYKJAVIK 1514, 76 REYKJAVIK 26
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELAND/UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: PRESS REPORTS PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH LABOR MP
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MARR, IC, UK, NATO, (WILSON, HAROLD), (HALLGRIMSSON, GEIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006